

REMARKS

This is a timely reply to the Office Action dated January 10, 2003. In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Daniel (US 6,174,097). Claims 6, 7, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daniel in view of Olodort et al (US 6,331,850).

Within this response, new claim 16 has been added. Support for claim 16 can be found in FIG. 2 of the originally filed drawings. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1-5 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Daniel (US 6,174,097). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claims 1 and 8, Daniel fails to teach "a first keyboard-base section," "a second keyboard-base section," "a first key-base section," and a "second key-base section." Daniel generally discloses "a collapsible keyboard that is collapsible between a deployed configuration in which the keyboard is generally planar and a collapsed configuration, the keyboard being foldable about three substantially parallel axes between the deployed and collapsed configurations, the keyboard having four rigid subframes for supporting keys, each subframe being pivotally connected at a folding axis to an adjacent subframe." (Abstract, lines 1-8) Please show exactly where Daniel discloses each and every element that is claimed in claims 1 and 8. Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element of claims 1 and 8 is not disclosed by Daniel. Therefore, claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Daniel. Claims 2-7 and 9-15 are also patentable at least by virtue of their dependence from claims 1 and 8, respectively.

USC § 103(a)

Claims 6, 7, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daniel in view of Olodort et al (US 6,331,850).

Regarding claims 6 and 14, Olodort fails to disclose "a plurality of keys mounted on the first and second key-base sections," which is an element of claim

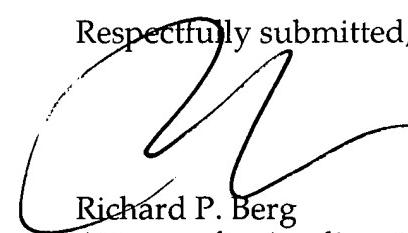
1. Olodort instead discloses that "each key includes a key top 11a and a key base 11b." In addition, there is no motivation to combine Daniel and Olodort. Daniel discloses "four rigid subframes for supporting keys." (Abstract, lines 5-6) Olodort discloses that "for each key, the key top and key base rotate on a pivot point which couples the key base to the support element." (Abstract, lines 9-11) Each reference performs a substantially different collapsing technique. Where is the motivation to combine these references? How are Olodort grooves 293a and 293b supposed to be used in Daniel's collapsible keyboard? Exactly how is Daniel's design supposed to be modified based on Olodort? And what is the motivation for making such modification? Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6 and 14 are patentable over Daniel in view of Olodort. This rejection is based on a hindsight analysis of Applicant's claims as opposed to being based on what the prior art teaches! The combination is just not understood. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection. Claims 7 and 15 are also patentable at least by virtue of their dependence from claims 6 and 14, respectively.

Conclusion

Hence, the Applicant respectfully submits that all claims of the application (1-7) are patentable over the cited references for the reasons given above. In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited.

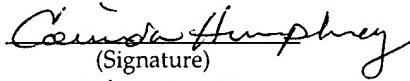
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,


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